(d) The criteria laid down for inclusion of drugs under price control do not distinguish between companies of Indian origin and others.

[Translation]

Education Programmes for OBCs

3316. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for launching education programmes for the welfare of Other Backward Castes/Classes from the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the Central assistance sanctioned/ released till date?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal from the State Government of U.P. for the establishment of residential Schools for imparting proper Education to the students belonging to Backward Classes on the pattern of Navodaya Vidhyalaya has been received. Presently no such scheme is being implemented by the Government of India. However, a scheme for establishment of residential Schools for boys & girls belonging to Backward Classes has been approved for implementation during the IXth Five Year Plan. The Ministry is in the process of formulating the scheme.

[English]

Amendment in Cooperative Laws

3317. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the cooperative laws to ensure the smooth functioning of cooperatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) A proposal is under consideration to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 to make the functioning of cooperative societies more democratic and autonomous. State Cooperative Acts can be amended by the State Governments since "Cooperative Societies" is a State subject.

[Translation]

Safety of Statues of National Leaders

3318. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the recurrence of Mumbai like incidents of desecration of the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the country;

(b) whether instructions have been issued to the States to contain the happening of the such incidents;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact any legislation for installation, maintenance and safety of statues of the national leaders in order to avoid Mumbai like incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) In view of the recent incidents of violence in Mumbai city where trouble started following the alleged desecration of Dr. Ambedkar's statue by unidentified miscreants, the Government have alerted all State Governments and UT Administrations to take appropriate measures to prevent occurrence of such incidents.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Corruption Cases

3319. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of Ministry in 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers involved therein Grade-wise;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty during the said period and the action taken thereon;